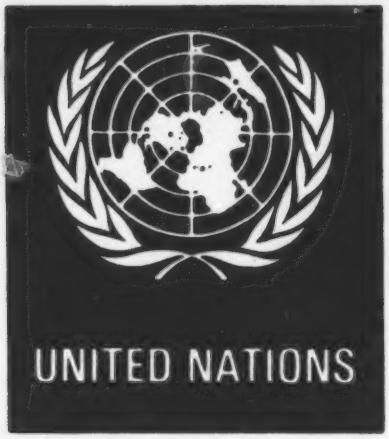

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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CONTENTS

Page

I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE..... 1

II. EXCERPT FROM STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1990..... 3

III. EXCERPT FROM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION, SEPTEMBER 1990..... 4

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION 5

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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 19 September in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/528-S/21802), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People stated the following:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your attention to the ongoing escalation of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinians in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

"Since my letter to you on 19 June 1990 (A/44/955-S/21366), more Palestinians, including children have been killed or wounded. According to a recent report of the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, since the beginning of the intifadah, and until 31 August 1990, 856 Palestinians, about one fourth of them children, were killed by Israeli forces, settlers and others. More than 99,000 Palestinians were estimated to have been injured in the same period. In its 1990 report released in mid-July, Amnesty International has charged that Palestinians have often been shot dead by Israeli forces in circumstances suggesting excessive use of force or deliberate killings. In a report issued on 15 July, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights/Betzelem stated that "more than 600 Palestinians have been shot to death by IDF soldiers according to orders that only permit firing at the legs, except in cases of armed attack. Even if some were shot in circumstances justifying the firing, there would still remain hundreds of dead whose killing could have been avoided". The same organization has reported that 1,890 Palestinian women had suffered miscarriages after inhaling tear-gas used by the Israeli army.

"Harsh collective punishment continues to be imposed widely. Database estimates that between December 1987 and the end of August 1990, a total of 10,200 Palestinians were placed in administrative detention for up to six months without charges or trial; 1,755 days of curfew were imposed on towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and 1,557 houses and other structures were demolished or sealed. The same organization has also reported a trend toward increased collection of arbitrary taxes and the imposition of large fines instead of, or in addition to, imprisonment. Al-Fajr reported on 31 May 1990 that the military government renewed the closure order of West Bank universities for another three months.

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Community colleges were allowed to reopen but under very restrictive conditions.

"Reports of cases of injury and torture in Israeli prisons have also continued to reach the Committee. WaFA (the Washington-based Palestine News Agency) reported on 1 September 1990 that 2,000 Palestinian prisoners were on hunger strike in Almaskoubieh prison in Jerusalem to protest inhuman conditions, including overcrowding and torture. The agency also reported that, on 20 August 1990, Palestinian prisoners had been wounded at the Ansar 3 detention camp when Israeli prison guards fired live ammunition and tear-gas at them after they defied an order to work.

"Restrictions on freedom of speech have intensified. Reuters reported on 9 July, that the Palestinian weekly Sawt al-Hak Wal-Huriye was ordered closed by Israeli authorities for three months. On 29 July, Ha'aretz reported that Israeli police extended the closure of the Arab Studies Society in East Jerusalem for a third consecutive year and shut down two of its auxiliary offices. Al-Fajr reported on 14 August that the Israeli army sealed and ordered the closure of Gaza Press offices for one year.

"Measures have also been taken by the Israeli authorities to prevent Palestinians in the occupied territory from attending the United Nations European Regional NGO Symposium and International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva from 27 to 31 August. Mr. Faisal Husseini, head of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem, and Ms. Zahira Kamal, head of the Union of Women's Action Committees, were ordered not to leave the country for two months. Mr. Ghassan Al-Khatib, a Bir Zeit University lecturer, was denied permission to travel abroad. Mr. Younis Jaru, a lawyer, and Dr. Feryal Agha, a physician, both from Gaza, were denied a laissez-passer and a re-entry visa, respectively. These arbitrary decisions taken by Israel are clearly in contravention of its obligation to allow persons under its control to travel to United Nations meetings.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People strongly deplores the intensification of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Committee urges once again the Security Council to adopt effective measures to provide international protection to Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory as requested by the General Assembly in

resolutions 43/233 and 44/2 of 20 April and 6 October 1989, respectively.

"The Committee believes that current events in the region underscore the imperative necessity of advancing towards a comprehensive and just settlement of the question of Palestine through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989. The Committee reiterates its appeal to all concerned, and in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, to intensify their efforts to attain this essential objective."

II. EXCERPT FROM STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1990

Following a meeting held on 28 September 1990 with the Secretary-General, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America issued a statement which contained the following paragraph:

"The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the aggravation of tensions in the Near East. They reaffirmed their determination to support an active negotiating process in which all relevant parties would participate, leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. They agreed that such negotiations should be based on resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) of the Security Council and should take into account the right to security for all States in the region, including Israel, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." (see S/21835)

In a letter dated 26 September, addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations requested a meeting to consider the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory (see S/21830). The requested meeting took place on 5 October and will be covered in Bulletin Number 10.

III. EXCERPT FROM REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION, SEPTEMBER 1990

The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the organization contained the following paragraphs relating to the question of Palestine. (see A/45/1, p. 10):

"It is clear that progress cannot be made on the overall situation in the region, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, until the present crisis is set on the way to solution in accordance with the position taken by the Security Council. It is disappointing to note that an impasse has been reached in the effort to promote a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. The intifadah will soon enter its fourth year and, regrettably, the situation in the occupied territories remains bleak, with little hope of early progress. I continue to believe that, in addition to the efforts to promote a dialogue, the Security Council could make an important contribution to the process by renewing its commitment to resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) which, in my view, together with the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination, can constitute the basis of a just and lasting peace in the area.

"...The Middle East as a whole continues to be the most explosive region of the world today. Longstanding grievances, which have festered for years, have been aggravated by an escalating arms race throughout the area, which has spawned a deadly arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. In the long run, lasting peace will come to the Middle East only when the principles of international law govern the relations between States, when disputes are resolved through peaceful means, when the aspirations of those deprived of their rights have been fulfilled, and regional security and economic arrangements - which take into account the concerns of all the parties in the area - have been established."

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of September, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. ICCP Newsletter No. 26, available from: International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150 route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211, Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Jerusalem, publication of Palestine Committee for Non-governmental Organizations, available from: B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

3. The Other Front, weekly bulletin on development in Israeli society, available from: The Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

4. HADAF Newsletter, available from: Al-Hadaf Cultural Foundation, P.O. Box 169, 30010 UMM El Fahn, Israel.

5. Newsletter on Freedom of the Press, monthly publication of the Forum of Action for Freedom of the Press and the Re-opening of Derech Hanitzotz, available from P.O. Box 1575, Jerusalem.

6. The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, available from: P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009.

7. Palestine Solidarité, bi-monthly bulletin of the Association Medicale Franco-Palestinienne. Available from: AMFP, 14 rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris, France.

8. New Zealand Palestine Review, available from: P.O. Box 29-168, Christchurch, New Zealand.

9. Israeli Mirror, monthly press round-up, available from: 21 Collingham Road, London, SW5 ONU, England.

10. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier, 75009, Paris, France.

11. News from Within, independent political newsletter published by Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

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